(d) whether matters made of cow-urine are used as insecticide in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) During the year 2007-08, a quantity of 79,756 tonnes of technical grade pesticides was manufactured in India while 29,297 tonnes of technical grade pesticides was imported. Thus the quantity manufactured was 73% and that imported was 27%.

(b) to (e) Medicines as well as products made of cow-urine are not registered under the Insecticide Act, 1968 for use as insecticide.

Apprehension to food security due to poor monsoon

1530. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's food security plan is likely to get set back because of less than normal monsoon;

(b) whether Government has assessed the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in the Central Pool, as on 1st June 2009 were 204.03 lakh tons of rice and 331.22 lakh tons of wheat. With record procurement of rice and wheat, sufficient stocks are available in the central pool. At the present levels of allocations, estimated annual requirement of foodgrains is about 446 lakh tons under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and about 50 lakh tons under other welfare schemes. The present stocks of foodgrains available in the Central Pool are sufficient to meet the demand of foodgrains under TPDS and other Welfare Schemes at present level of allocations during the current year 2009-10.

Cheaper Drugs

1531. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has declared new price formula for 184 drugs of which 77 to be cheaper;

(b) whether this move will lower prices of several drugs including antibiotic medicines used in the treatment of arthritis, diabetes, eye-ailments and infection etc.;

(c) if so, by when this price formula will be in operation; and

(d) whether Government can now monitor drug firms' produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the First schedule, and the formulations

containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/ Government fixes or revises prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA / Government.

Fixation/revision of prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations is an on-going process. On 15.6.2009 NPPA has fixed / revised prices of 185 formulation packs, of which prices of 77 formulation packs were reduced. These 77 formulation packs also include some medicines used in the treatment of arthritis, diabetes, eye-ailments and infection etc.

(c) and (d) The prices fixed by NPPA of 185 formulation packs on 15.6.2009 have already been notified and in operation. If any manufacturer or marketing company does not comply with the prices fixed by NPPA within 15 days from the date of the notification, such manufacturer/marketing company shall be liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with the interest under the provisions of the DPCO, 1995.

Investment in pharma industry

1532. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to participate along with private sector to plan investment of 1 billion to 2 billion dollars in an effort to make India one of top five global pharmaceutical innovation hubs by 2020;

(b) if so, whether Pharmaceuticals 2014 India will leap forward;

(c) whether Government would make efforts to direct it toward reaping social and economic benefits including creation of five lakh new jobs, employment of pharmaceutical scientists and technicians and several hundred ancillary jobs; and

(d) if so, what concrete steps and measures Government plan to make pharma industry better by 2020?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with a consultancy firm has prepared a 'White Paper' for making India a Pharma R&D and Innovation Hub by 2020. The White paper envisages that the Government of India is required to scale up its investments and undertake deliberate action for Building infrastructure for education and research, Offering financial incentives to encourage and incubate innovation, Shaping a favourable regulatory environment etc. for India to be among the top five global innovation hubs by 2020. The Department of Pharmaceuticals has proposed this 'White Paper' for consideration of the Government.

Production of fertilizer

†1533. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of urea and other fertilizers in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.